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| PATTERSON & SHERIDAN LLP | | | FERNANDEZ RIVAS, OMAR F | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/725,352 | ROUVELLOU ET AL. |
| | Examiner Omar F. Fernández Rivas | Art Unit 2129 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 June 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5,9-21 and 24-28 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5,9-21 and 24-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/4/2004</u> | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to an AMENDMENT filed by the Applicant entered on June 15, 2007.
2. The Office Actions of March 15, 2007, May 5, 2006 and October 6, 2006 are incorporated into this Final Office Action by reference.

Status of Claims

3. Claims 1, 17 and 24 have been amended. Claims 6-8, 22-23 and 29-30 were previously cancelled. Claims 1-5, 9-21 and 24-28 are pending on this application.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 1, 17 and 24 objected to because of the following informalities: the claims recite: "scoping contents of the rule set input and output groups in accordance with one or more choices ***made the user***". The claims should read: "...made by the user". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 9-21 and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abrari et al in view of Serrano-Morales et al (US Patent #7,020,869, referred to as **Abrari**; US Patent #6,965,889, referred to as **Serrano**).

Claims 1,17 and 24

Abrari teaches a method, a system and a computer readable media for authoring and executing an individualized language business rule (**Abrari**: abstract, C1, 19-32), comprising: creating at least one individualized language resource, said at least one individualized language resource being mapped onto at least one executable object (**Abrari**: C4, L51-67, C5, L1-11; C7, L25-47; C12, L50-53; Figs. 3, 6 and 17; Examiner's Note (EN): defining a name for an entity is creating an individualized language resource as interpreted from paragraphs 9, 60 and 61 of the Application's specification. It is inherent that any variable or statement created to produce a function in a computer will be mapped into an executable object that the computer can interpret upon compilation); creating at least one individualized language rule referencing at least one of said individualized language resource (**Abrari**: C4, L63-67, C5, L1-11; C7, L63-67; C8, L1-6; C12, L50-53; Figs. 3, 6 and 17; EN: developing business rules using the vocabulary); organizing said at least one individualized language resource and said at least one individualized language rule into at least one individualized language rule set (**Abrari**: C4, L51 to C5, L11; Fig. 1); and transforming said at least one individualized language rule into computer executable format (**Abrari**: C2, L23-65; C4, L34-67; C5, L1-42; C6, L19-38; EN: in a computer system, all data must be transformed to computer executable format so that the computer can operate upon it).

Abrari does not teach creating at least one individualized rule template; and creating at least one individualized rule from said at least one individualized rule template based on user-selected inputs and outputs to the individualized rule template, the user-selected inputs and outputs being selected by the user from rule set input and output groups, respectively.

Serrano teaches creating at least one individualized rule template (**Serrano**: abstract, L1-11, C3, L26-49); and creating at least one individualized rule from said at least one individualized rule template based on user-selected inputs and outputs to the individualized rule template, the user-selected inputs and outputs being selected by the user from rule set input and output groups, respectively (**Serrano**: C3, L26 to C4, L41).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the arts at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Abrari by creating at least one individualized rule template; and creating at least one individualized rule from said at least one individualized rule template based on user-selected inputs and outputs to the individualized rule template, the user-selected inputs and outputs being selected by the user from rule set input and output groups, respectively as taught by Serrano for the purpose of making it easier for a user to provide the appropriate data needed to create a rule.

Abrari does not teach scoping contents of the rule set input and output groups chosen by a user in accordance with one or more choices made the user.

Serrano teaches scoping authored templates and rules based upon rule set input and output groups chosen by a user (**Serrano**: C2, L15-28; C3 L26 to C4, L41; C6, L56

to C7, L51; C10 and 11, claims 1 and 11; EN: the user edits the rule elements. By doing so, the user is constraining (scoping) the values that the rule elements of the template may contain).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the arts at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Abrari by scoping authored templates and rules based upon rule set input and output groups chosen by a user as taught by Serrano for the purpose of setting constraints on the rules that will be created.

Claims 2, 18 and 25

Abrari teaches preventing a syntactically incorrect individualized language statement from being authored (**Abrari**: C10, L49-67; EN: by checking and correcting the completeness (syntax) of a rule, syntactically incorrect rules will not be created).

Claims 3, 19 and 26

Abrari teaches deploying said at least one transformed executable to a runtime environment and executing said at least one transformed individualized language rule (**Abrari**: C2, L23-65; C4, L34-39; EN: the deployment platform used by the invention is a runtime environment).

Claims 4, 20 and 27

Abrari teaches executing at least one non-individualized language rule (**Abrari**: C4, L51-62; C6, L39-51; Figs. 1 and 2; EN: integrating rules with diverse application components (runtime environments) is executing a non-individualized language rule as understood from paragraph 55 of the Application's specifications).

Claims 5, 21 and 28

Abrari teaches coordinating and cooperating by a runtime engine with other rules engines in a runtime environment (**Abrari**: C6, L20-51; Fig. 2; EN: interacting with various business components).

Claim 9

Abrari teaches transforming said at least one of an individualized language resource, an individualized language rule, an individualized rule template, and individualized language rule set into a standardized format (**Abrari**: C6, L19-51; Fig. 2).

Claim 10

Abrari teaches at least one individualized language rule set influences at least one of application behavior and application state (**Abrari**: C8, L7-11; C20, L63-67, C21, L1-20; Fig. 6; EN: executing an action when a condition is met influences an application's behavior and state).

Claim 11

Abrari teaches directly or indirectly linking an application to an execution of at least one individualized language rule set (**Abrari**: abstract; C8, L7-44; C20, L63-67, C21, L1-20; Fig. 6).

Claim 12

Abrari does not teach creating a type-safe linkage between an application and said at least one individualized language rule set.

Serrano teaches creating a type-safe linkage between an application and said at least one individualized language rule set (**Serrano**: C2, L15-28, C3, L35-67; Fig. 1A;

EN: the rule elements define the rule structure and the application applying the rule must use (are linked) these rule elements).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the arts at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Abrari by creating a type-safe linkage between an application and said at least one individualized language rule set as taught by Serrano for the purpose of providing the application with the correct data to apply a given rule.

Claim 13

Abrari teaches deploying said type-safe linkage in a runtime environment
(**Abrari**: C4, L34-39; C10, L17-67; EN: a computer system performs its operations in a runtime environment).

Claim 14

Abrari teaches finding, updating and deleting an item contained within said standardized format (**Abrari**: C6, L52-63; EN: to modify (update or delete) a rule it must be found).

Claim 15

Abrari does not teach employing said type-safe linkage to select said at least one individualized rule set based on externalized criteria.

Serrano teaches employing said type-safe linkage to select said at least one individualized rule set based on externalized criteria (**Serrano**: C2, L15-28; C3, L55-67; C4, L5-12; EN: selecting the rules based on the inputs given by the user).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the arts at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Abrari by employing said type-safe linkage to select said at least one individualized rule set based on externalized criteria as taught by Serrano for the purpose of allowing the system to determine which rule can operate on a given input data.

Claim 16

Abrari does not teach transforming said type-safe linkage into a standardized format.

Serrano teaches transforming said type-safe linkage into a standardized format (**Serrano: C4, L43-63**).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the arts at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Abrari by transforming said type-safe linkage into a standardized format as taught by Serrano for the purpose of making the data types used by the rules compatible with different applications.

Response to Applicant's arguments

6. The Applicant's arguments regarding the rejection under 35 USC 103 have been fully considered but are not persuasive.

In reference to Applicant's arguments on page 10:

The Examiner concedes on Page 4 of the Office Action that "Abrari does not teach scoping authored templates and rules based upon rule set input and output groups". Serrano-Morales does not bridge this gap in the teachings of Abrari. Specifically, Serrano-Morales also does not teach, show or suggest scoping the contents of rule set input and output groups, from among which a user may select inputs and outputs (i.e., variables) to a rule template, in accordance with one or more

choices made the user. The Examiner submits in the Office Action that allowing a user to choose rule elements (i.e., editable variables) from among a list of choices comprises scoping in accordance with a user choice, as claimed by the Applicants. The Applicants respectfully disagree. In particular, the Applicants emphasize that the invention does not claim scoping the rules themselves according to user selections, but rather scoping the list of choices available to the user for building the rules (i.e., the variables, or, in the parlance of Serrano-Morales, the "rule elements"), in accordance with user selections (e.g., of vocabulary, inputs and outputs). For example, Serrano-Morales teaches in FIG. 5 that a rule can specify a product to be promoted as "cognac", "wine", or "brandy". The final rule, the Examiner argues, is scoped by the user choosing one of these products as a rule element. However, what the Applicants claim is that the list from which the user can make this choice (i.e., the list of "cognac", "wine", or "brandy" in the above example) is scoped by a previous user selection.

Serrano-Morales simply does not teach, show or suggest that the choices available to the user for selection as a rule element are scoped according to previous selections made by the user. At most, Serrano-Morales suggests that the choices may be pulled from an external database (See, Serrano-Morales at column 8, lines 44-46). Thus, Serrano-Morales, like Abrari, does not contemplate the user as a source for scoping the choices from among which a rule template variable (e.g., an input, output, or "rule element") can be chosen.

Examiner's response:

Paragraph 7 applies. As specified in the cited portions of Serrano, the user edits the rule elements. By doing so, the user is constraining (considered to be scoping since it has not been further defined in the claim) the values that the rule elements of the template may contain). Examples of the rule elements that the user can edit are operators, variables, constants (all three considered inputs), conditions and actions (both considered outputs) (Serrano: C2, L15-28; C3 L26 to C4, L41; C6, L56 to C7, L51; C10 and 11, claims 1 and 11). Moreover, the claim recites *scoping contents of the rule set input and output groups in accordance with one or more choices made the user.* If the user is constraining or setting values to the rule elements, then he is *scoping contents of the rule set* (the contents of the elements that form the rules). Applicant

must understand that claims are not just words listing out invention elements...they are limitations that define the fundamental claim scope.

As for the argument that Serrano-Morales does not teach, show or suggest that the choices available to the user for selection as a rule element are scoped according to previous selections made by the user, this limitation is not in the claim. However, Serrano discloses a user interface generator which creates interfaces to guide a user to create or edit rules according to definitions specified by rule templates (**Serrano**: C3, L55 to C4, L11). These interfaces are generated based on the rule element data and present and limit the choices that the user may choose for the editable rule elements.

Examination Considerations

7. The claims and only the claims form the metes and bounds of the invention. "Office personnel are to give the claims their broadest reasonable interpretation in light of the supporting disclosure. *In re Morris*, 127 F.3d 1048, 105455, 44USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Limitations appearing in the specification but not recited in the claim are not read into the claim. *In re Prater*, 415 F.2d, 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ 541, 550-551 (CCPA 1969)" (MPEP p 2100-8, c 2, I 45-48; p 2100-9, c 1, I 1-4). The Examiner has full latitude to interpret each claim in the broadest reasonable sense. Examiner will reference prior art using terminology familiar to one of ordinary skill in the art. Such an approach is broad in concept and can be either explicit or implicit in meaning.

8. Examiner's Notes are provided with the cited references to prior art to assist the applicant to better understand the nature of the prior art, application of such prior art and, as appropriate, to further indicate other prior art that maybe applied in other office actions. Such comments are entirely consistent with the intent and spirit of compact prosecution. However, and unless otherwise stated, the Examiner's Notes are not prior art but a link to prior art that one of ordinary skill in the art would find inherently appropriate.

9. Unless otherwise annotated, Examiner's statements are to be interpreted in reference to that of one of ordinary skill in the art. Statements made in reference to the condition of the disclosure constitute, on the face of it, the basis and such would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, establishing thereby an inherent prima facie statement.

Conclusion

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Correspondence Information

11. Any inquires concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Omar F. Fernández Rivas, who may be reached Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. EST. or via telephone at (571) 272-2589 or email omar.fernandezrivas@uspto.gov.

If you need to send an Official facsimile transmission, please send it to (571) 273-8300.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful the Examiner's Supervisor, David Vincent, may be reached at (571) 272-3080.

Hand-delivered responses should be delivered to the Receptionist @ (Customer Service Window Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22313), located on the first floor of the south side of the Randolph Building.

Omar F. Fernández Rivas
Patent Examiner
Artificial Intelligence Art Unit 2129
United States Department of Commerce
Patent & Trademark Office

Tuesday, September 04, 2007

JFR

[Handwritten Signature]
JOSEPH P. HIER
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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100